

ABSTRACT

This invention is directed to a dental instrument and the use of this dental instrument to measure deposits and other imperfections on a tooth surface. The dental instrument has an elongated portion and on at least one end a general curvature portion.

- 5 The general curvature portion will have the general curvature of a posterior tooth or an anterior tooth. Preferably it also will be marked with measured segments. By placing the general curvature portion against a tooth a deposit or imperfection on a tooth can be measured. In a preferred embodiment the dental instrument will have a general curvature portion in each end; the general curvature on one end being for posterior teeth and the
- 10 general curvature on the other end being for anterior teeth. When measuring plaque and related deposits a dye solution can be used to make the deposit more visible.